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Urban District Council of Chesham

Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the year 1970

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1970

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A., C.C.

HEALTH, PLANNING AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor F.O. Bell, O.B.E., B.A.

Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries

Councillor P.J. Arnold

Councillor E.G. Bailey

Councillor A. Boodson

Councillor C.F.J. Downs

Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A., C.C.

Councillor W.J. Phelps

Councillor C.D. Chaney

Councillor K.J. Reynolds

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

B.H. Burne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer, and Departmental Medical Officer.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Winifred J. Risk, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., F.I.H.M.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Other Appointment: Deputy Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Additional Public Health Inspector

G.H. Lavender, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

(Resigned 25.9.70)

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk

J.C. How

(Retired 31.12.69)

Mrs. G.W. Hawley

(Appointed 9.2.70)

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. L.W. Gillard

Copy Typist & Records Clerk

Mrs. C.P. King

(Appointed 12.1.70)

Junior Clerk

Miss J. Wilyman

(Appointed 28.5.70)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 2622

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham,
Bucks.

November, 1971

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the
Chesham Urban District Council

Dear Members,

O Mystery of Man! from what depth
Proceed thy honours! I am lost, but see
In simple childhood something of the base
On which thy greatness stands.

(Wm. Wordsworth - The Prelude)

To quote Alan G. Hill from an article to mark the bicentenary of the poet's birth in 1770, Wordsworth "understood more than anyone before him the forces in modern life that make for disharmony in the individual and alienate him from his natural surroundings" and one might say also from his biological fellows. In his own way he created the philosophical and poetic ideas later acceptable as "psychology" but whether despite his support of the French revolutionaries he would have found "sociology" acceptable I doubt, as he had an almost religious view of nature and the natural order of man's estate.

It perhaps seems natural to the man in the street that the Medical Officer of Health should have responsibilities in the fields of community mental health and community services for children. In many respects (including the clinical) a clear understanding of the child is a prerequisite to the understanding of the adult. This is particularly true of the elderly adult and the handicapped in difficulties, but to the trained observer it is so of any age group. "The child is father to the man", is true in several fields and is no more true than in medicine. However, some authorities have recently appeared to doubt this.

It cannot be really be said (with the Sheldon Committee) that clinical responsibilities begin and end with any one medical authority for children. The General Practitioners, Hospital Paediatricians, School Doctors, Health Visitors and

School Nurses each have their shared responsibilities, and even in medical matters the last word still rests with the parents. As the preventive representatives of the health professions we are perhaps more cognisant than others, such as social workers, of the biological, self-correcting forces which assist us in our work. It seems to me naive to accept as the Seeborn Committee and the major political parties seem to have done by precipitate legislation, that human social pathology is based on anything more than human 'disease' to use the word in its broadest sense. Psychology and sociology go some way by providing a framework of explanation as philosophies seeking to solve many current problems, but to me they seem eventually to polarise towards (a) medical or (b) political or ethical solutions. For instance it surprises me that so many politicians find that rehousing is "the solution" to so many problems. I must admit, however, that some now see a rational end to this need. Healthwise, a request for rehousing is often only the beginning of recognition of health problems that have long existed previously well known to the doctor but unrecognised by the patient. Moving house seems to give leverage to their solution - "a fresh start", "a new leaf", etc. Similarly, referral to a psychiatrist is often the first open admission by the patient that a social or emotional problem exists and is ipso facto a major step towards its solution. Psychiatric referrals, however, still have a stigma to them and this is perhaps one reason why a separate source of social work advice has become necessary.

In the majority of local authorities the Educational Welfare Officers doing school social work are not to become part of the greater Social Services Departments. This means to say that medical officers who are also school doctors will be able to continue the close liaison which already exists between the School Health Service and Educational Welfare Service, so long as both officers continue to work for the same authority. Indeed, it remains to be seen how much, if any, social work can be effectively done from any other bases than from a local authority office. Green Papers 1 and 11 seem to have been abandoned partly because they provided the National Health Service without any really strong local community links. Regional Hospital Boards only recently seem to have become aware of their responsibilities in this direction. Fresh proposals are awaited. At least as far as local authority social work is concerned it will be possible to maintain democratic controls, and evaluate the work carried out. Local councillors themselves often act as informal voluntary social workers but they would probably agree that over-intellectualisation or over-emotionalisation of everyday problems can only confuse the sense of political direction if allowed to go too far. It is to be hoped that the new Social Services Departments are to be built only on the kind of social action we have been used to in traditional Public Health Departments and not on too much lofty and unproved theory. People have been doing their own social work a long time.

In my view it beholds the doctor to employ the techniques of sociology as much or more than he already employs those of psychology, that is as part, but only part, of his general expertise in dealing with patients and clients. Indeed, the Todd Report on medical education has underlined this as being of great importance to the future of medicine. No other professionally qualified practitioner will be able to influence the individual or his community towards better health for a very long time to come and the doctor-child relationship will remain paramount. The Public Health doctor or future community physician will not continue to fully understand his job unless he continues to have direct access to children. If he cuts himself off from a growing-up generation he will entirely fail to understand their social medical problems because he has only heard of them second-hand.

Yours sincerely,

B.H. BURNE

Medical Officer of Health

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S E C T I O N I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Population, Census 1951	11,433
Population, Census 1961	16,297
Population (estimated mid-year 1970)	21,140
Area (acres of District)	3,489
Number of separate dwellings (per Valuation List)	6,995
Rateable Value of Area (31.12.70)	£1,003,408
Product of Penny Rate 1970/71	£9,654 *

Comparative Statistics - 1934 - 1970

	YEAR		
	1934	1969	1970
Population	10,240	20,750	21,140
Rateable Value	£56,463	£979,894	£1,003,408
Product of Penny Rate	£212	£4,006	£9,654 *
Number of separate dwellings	3,084	6,925	6,995

* decimalised for purpose of comparison

2. VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	193	180	373
Illegitimate	8	4	12
All	<u>201</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>385</u>

<u>Live Birth Rates, etc.</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
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Live births per 1,000 home population (Crude rate)	18.2	16.00
Area comparability factor	.84	1.00
* Local adjusted rate	15.3	16.00
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	.96	1.00
Illegitimate live births as percentage of all live births	3	8

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	1	3

Total Live and Stillbirths

Legitimate	195	181	376
Illegitimate	8	4	12
Total	203	185	388

<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	8	13

Infant Deaths

<u>Under 1 year of age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	3	5

Under 4 weeks of age

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Under 1 week of age

Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	13	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	13	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	nil	26
Neonatal mortality rate: deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	3	12

	<u>Chesham</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Early neonatal mortality rate: deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	3	11
Perinatal mortality rate: still- births and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	10	23

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths NIL

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total
live and still births NIL

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All ages	81	78	159

Death Rate per
1,000 population
(crude rate) 7.5

Death Rate per
1,000 population:
England & Wales 11.7

* Local adjusted rate
per 1,000 population
(Area comparability
factor 1.20) 9.0

Ratio of Local adjusted
Death Rate to National
Death Rate .77

* The locally adjusted birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The locally adjusted rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

It will be seen from the following table that the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation (78) which caused approximately 49% of the deaths. Deaths from malignant conditions (40) accounted for approximately 25% of the total and those from pneumonia and bronchitis (22) for approximately 14%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	1	1
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2	6
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	1
6. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1	8
7. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	9	9
8. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
9. Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
10. Leukaemia	-	1	1
11. Other Malignant Neoplasms	3	5	8
12. Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	-	1	1
13. Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
14. Mental Disorders	1	-	1
15. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	1	2
16. Hypertensive Disease	1	3	4
17. Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	14	43
18. Other forms of Heart Disease	4	5	9
19. Cerebrovascular Disease	5	8	13
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	4	7
21. Pneumonia	8	9	17
22. Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	1	5
23. Peptic Ulcer	-	1	1
24. Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	-	1	1
25. Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	3	3
26. Congenital Anomalies	1	1	2
27. Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	1	1	2
28. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
29. All other Accidents	-	1	1
30. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	1	1
	<hr/>		
TOTALS	81	78	159
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COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE YEAR 1970

District	Population Census 1961	Registrar General Estimated Population Mid-1970	BIRTHS		DEATHS	
			Number	rate per 1,000 Population	Number	rate per 1,000 Population
<u>URBAN</u>						
Aylesbury	27,923	36,920	695	18.8	354	9.6
Beaconsfield	10,073	11,880	121	10.2	98	8.2
Bletchley	17,095	30,290	653	21.6	164	5.4
Buckingham	4,379	4,960	68	13.7	58	11.6
Chesham	16,297	21,140	385	18.2	159	7.5
Eton	3,894	5,280	36	6.8	27	5.1
High Wycombe	49,981	57,770	1,177	20.4	477	8.3
Marlow	8,724	11,250	210	18.7	123	10.9
Newport Pagnell	4,743	6,070	98	16.1	108	17.8
Slough	80,781	93,570	1,613	17.2	686	7.3
Wolverton	13,113	13,520	216	15.9	181	13.4
Total Urban	236,943	292,650	5,272	17.9	2,435	8.3
<u>RURAL</u>						
Amersham	56,005	65,190	988	15.2	624	9.6
Aylesbury	33,336	38,170	572	15.0	395	10.4
Buckingham	8,497	10,090	143	14.2	116	11.5
Eton	66,932	72,900	984	13.5	669	9.2
Newport Pagnell	14,107	15,860	246	15.5	218	13.1
Wing	9,083	10,120	165	16.3	90	8.9
Winslow	7,939	9,920	202	20.4	133	13.4
Wycombe	51,252	70,660	1,312	18.6	551	7.8
Total Rural	247,151	292,910	4,612	15.7	2,796	9.5
Total County	484,094	585,560	9,884	16.9	5,231	8.9
England & Wales		48,987,700	784,482	16.0	575,208	11.7

SECTION II

HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	= Berks and Bucks Joint Sanitorium, Peppard Common
General	= Chesham Cottage Hospital = Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury = Amersham General Hospital = Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury = Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury = Wycombe General Hospital = Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	= Isolation Hospital, Stoke Mandeville
Mental Illness	= St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity Cases	= The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles = Amersham General Hospital

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford, Luton and Watford.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

The Public Analyst for Buckinghamshire is Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Analytical Laboratory, Stuart House, 1 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4. (Telephone No. Fleet Street 9026)

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the sub-station at Chiltern Road, Amersham (telephone No. Amersham 3112) from 7.00 a.m. - 11.00 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe (telephone No. High Wycombe 21871) provides a 24-hour cover to the whole of the area.

Since the Autumn of 1968, the Casualty Department at the Amersham General Hospital (telephone No. Amersham 4411) has opened only during the day. Casualties occurring during the evening, at night or on Saturday and Sunday, are treated at Wycombe General Hospital where there is a 24-hour service.

4. MID-WIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE

The District is covered by a number of district nurses and mid-wives controlled by supervisory staff of the County Health Department. A scheme of attachment with all medical practitioners in the Town is in operation and the close liaison achieved is appreciated by both general practitioners and the nursing staff. The service is provided by the under-mentioned nurses:

<u>Attached to</u>	<u>Name and Address of Nurses</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Drs. Wise, Holmes, Middle & Fabre	Miss M. Bly, D.N., S.R.N., S.C.M. Shenley Cottage, Ley Hill (Also Health Visitor)	Chesham 2838
	Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 29 Penn Avenue, Chesham	Chesham 2319
Drs. Howe & Hutt	Miss P.M. Cross, S.R.N., 27 Penn Avenue, Chesham	Chesham 4251
	Mrs. B.L. Fowler, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., 17a Berkeley Avenue, Chesham (Also undertakes mid-wifery for patients of Drs. Widman, Heywood and McMullan)	Chesham 4191
Drs. Widman, Heywood & McMullan	Mrs. D.M. Bilbey, S.R.N., 28 Loudham Road, Little Chalfont	Little Chalfont 4161
	Mrs. G.M. Parry, S.E.N., 31 Penn Avenue, Chesham	Chesham 2360
(Male Nurse)	Mr. J. Jackson, S.R.N., Q.N., 537 Waterside, Chesham	Chesham 71309

5.

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

Child Health Clinics at which mothers can obtain help and advice in the care of babies and young children and arrange for immunisation are provided as follows:

	<u>Session</u>	<u>M.O. Attends</u>
Chesham School Clinic and Health Centre, Germain Street	2.00 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday	1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday each month and 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month
Chesham Community Hall, Windsor Road, Pond Park	2nd and 4th Monday at 2.00 p.m. each month	Each session
* Chartridge Village Hall	3rd Thursday each month	Each session

* Although situated in Amersham R.D., a number of Chesham residents form the clientele.

6.

HEALTH VISITING

A health visiting service is provided by the County Council for health education of the public and personal guidance to families seeking advice.

Health visitors for the Chesham District may be contacted either at the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham (telephone No. 3991) or at Ivy House, Red Lion Street, Chesham (telephone No. 71952). They are normally available at these centres Monday to Friday, 9 - 10.00 a.m. and 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

In recent years an attachment scheme has been developed whereby health visitors operating within geographical areas work in liaison with medical practices. Under this arrangement health visitors are working in attachment with nine general medical practitioners in the three group practices in Chesham. In addition, health visitors maintain liaison with hospital staffs and other medical and social workers.

7.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This scheme provides for help to be given in the homes of people suffering from chronic or acute illness including old age and pregnancy. The scheme is administered by the Local Organiser operating from the School Clinic, Germain Street, Chesham. This service

was administered by the County Medical Officer up to 1st April, 1971, when responsibility was transferred to the Social Services Department. The local organiser's address remains the same.

8. CERVICAL CYTOLOGY
National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28

A Clinic has been established at Chesham Cottage Hospital and sessions are held on alternate Mondays between 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Applications for appointments may be made through the County Health Visitors, General Practitioners or at the Public Health Department.

9. FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES

I am pleased to be able to report that the Chesham Council in co-operation with the Amersham Council is sponsoring a family planning information service at the Maternity Hospital, Amersham. This is available to the majority of mothers having their babies at the Hospital.

A full report on the activities of the local branch of the Family Planning Association is published as an appendix to my report to the Amersham R.D. Council.

10. PROPOSED HEALTH CENTRE FOR CHESHAM
National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 21

Negotiations with the County Council as health authority were carried a stage further at a meeting held in the Council Chamber in July. This meeting was attended by the Chairman of the County Council, Chairman of the District Council, Chairman of the Health Committee and Public Health Committee, representatives from the Clerks' Departments and Health Departments of both authorities and General Practitioners and other interested Councillors. It was agreed at this meeting that all parties were in favour in principle of the Health Centre being established and several ways in which both authorities might help the scheme forward were suggested.

Unfortunately in view of the lack of unanimity among the General Practitioners working in the Town, further negotiations were later suspended.

11.

MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot situated at the rear of 122 High Street, Chesham, and organised by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, has again rendered valuable service not only in this area but throughout the County.

Close liaison is maintained with general practitioners, Hospital and County Medical Social Workers, Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives.

It is a pleasure to give below the interesting and informative report that has been received from Miss M.F. Wheeler, B.E.M., the retiring officer in charge, on the work of the Depot during 1970.

"This has been a year of wonderful gifts to our Depot Fund, and of constant work to meet the needs of our invalids

Invalids helped	1,161
Maternity cases	87
Total	<u>1,248</u>
Total number of articles lent	3,022

We have been happy to add some new members to our rota of Chesham ladies who assist at the Depot, and are grateful for their services.

As this is the last report which I shall have the pleasure of writing I should like to especially stress the gratitude which all the Depot workers feel to the kindly people of this town who have given so generously to the Depot Fund over a period of 26 years. I cannot mention each organisation by name - there are so many - but the blessing which their gifts have brought to our invalids is quite incalculable. Let it never be forgotten that their donations have helped the young as well as the elderly - at the time of writing we have 4 disabled children, (two of whom are blind) who are learning to walk by the aid of our child walkers, and 4 others, using our junior size wheel chairs, while awaiting a Ministry chair.

Our gratitude also goes to the County Council's Health and Welfare Department, whose premises we use, rent free, and electricity provided. The Department's officers are always anxious to help us in time of need. The County Council's appreciation and approval of the work which we try to do, is especially valued by us, since it comes from those who are trained in the efficient service of the sick.

To Mrs. Janet Mash, and all the ladies who help her, my good wishes for the future. I know that sick people will

be well served by them, for they have those qualities of genuine interest which are needed in order to cope with this work - doing it, not to enhance a reputation, or to add lustre to a uniform, but to bring respite from pain to those who are sick, and aid to those who nurse them. I wish them all success and happiness in this work."

In forwarding this report, the new officer in charge, Mrs. Janet M. Mash has commented further on the 1970 activities.

"Maternity cases were down in number on the previous year, due to the fact of the extension of the hospital service for 48 hours, but we are hard pressed to meet the demand for wheel chairs during the summer months."

12. PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

(a) Visit of Under-Graduate Dental Students

A party of approximately 50 fourth year dental students and their tutors visited Chesham on the 19th and 20th of May from the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester Square. This is the third year we have arranged this, and this year it extended over two days. Students spent the night at Green Park Centre, Aston Clinton, and a very full programme of talks, discussions and visits took place. I am most grateful to all the participants who contributed to the success of the two day course and only wished we were able to do the same for medical students.

(b) National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28
(Prevention of Disease)
Fluoridation of Water Supplies

During the year no further action was taken by the Council to secure the fluoridation of the water supplied by the Council's undertaking.

The fluoride content of the water supplied by the Council's undertaking is 0.04 parts/million according to the last analysis carried out in March, 1969.

S E C T I O N I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

1. REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED
OF CARE AND ATTENTION
National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

In general it is felt preferable for persons of good mental state to be persuaded to accept more suitable care voluntarily. Most patients and relatives will accept the combined advice of both general practitioner and medical officer of health and can see the advantages of informal admissions and discharges.

Formal action under this Section was taken during the year in respect of only one person, an elderly woman living alone, who was removed to a home under the control of the Health and Welfare Authority.

2. BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD
National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

No burials were arranged under this Section during the year.

3. CHESHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Temperance Hall, leased from the Chesham Council and opened in January, 1961, has continued to be the centre of activity by this Committee. The Hall is open daily between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for the use of the elderly people of the town and a wide range of amenities and services are provided. Full details of these services are given in a booklet published by the Committee and distributed to interested persons throughout the town.

Mrs. L.M. Esseen, J.P., Hon. Secretary of the Committee has reported another successful year at the Temperance Hall. The chiropody, luncheon club and hairdressing services have expanded steadily, in spite of ever increasing costs. The meals-on-wheels service continues to provide a very necessary amenity to the elderly in Chesham.

During the Autumn of 1970 a meeting was held with the wardens of the Council's old people's units, as a result of which a small number of housebound pensioners are being provided with a launderette service.

The Temperance Hall has been re-decorated, and curtains provided from funds raised from the 1970 Christmas Draw. A number of outings, parties, etc. have been arranged throughout the year and over 300 Christmas parcels distributed.

The Committee expresses their thanks to all the voluntary helpers without whom the Committee could not operate.

4. MEALS SERVICE

In addition to the meals-on-wheels service provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee to elderly persons in their houses and to the meals provided by the Committee at Temperance Hall, a valuable contribution to this important welfare service is provided by the Wallington Road Luncheon Club, a voluntary organisation using the facilities at the Council's Community Centre. Meals are provided for elderly persons living in the Deansway and Elm Tree Hill area on two days each week.

During 1970, the Old People's Welfare Committee provided 3,905 meals at recipients' homes and 3,161 at their Centre. The Wallington Road Luncheon Club provided 3,060 meals.

Thanks are due to the many voluntary workers who make it possible to maintain these services.

5. HOMELESS FAMILIES Case Conference on Families in Need

These are conferences of professional workers active in the field of child and family care. They include health visitors, educational welfare officers, health and welfare officers, together with representatives from probation offices, children's departments, housing departments and voluntary agencies such as the N.S.P.C.C. At the meetings, which occur

regularly during the year, information is exchanged in order to co-ordinate the services available and to prevent families becoming homeless.

During 1970, 8 families resident in Chesham were discussed at the Case Conference on 25 occasions.

Mr. Saturley attends the meetings in his capacity as Housing Manager.

SECTION IV

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below gives the cases of infectious disease notified during 1970, together with figures for the two previous years:

Disease	Cases Notified		
	1968	1969	1970
Measles	1	32	229
Sonne Dysentery	1	102	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	1
Infective Hepatitis	13	1	-
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	1
Malaria	1	-	-
Meningococcal Septicaemia	1	-	-

Food Poisoning

Three cases of suspected food poisoning were reported by general practitioners, and although bacteriological examination of specimens from the patients showed the presence of Salmonella organisms, the origin of infection was not traced.

2. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(a) Smallpox Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated against Smallpox in the various age groups is shown in the table below:

	0-12 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15 years	Total
Primary Vaccination	9	238	18	17	7	9	2	-	300
Re-Vaccination	-	-	-	-	1	10	13	6	30
	9	238	18	17	8	19	15	6	330

The Department of Health and Social Security recommended that Smallpox vaccination of children be carried out between the ages of one and two years. The incidence of side-effects from vaccination is known to be less in this age group.

(b) Ministry of Health Circular 15/67
Distribution of Smallpox Vaccine

Under the arrangements described in the Circular, a supply of Smallpox vaccine is held in the Public Health Department and is available to local general practitioners.

During 1970, 1,431 doses were issued.

(c) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus
Immunisation

The schedule for the use of triple antigens - containing pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic - continues to follow the advice of the Standing Advisory Committee to the Ministry on the subject. The current arrangement is that parents are encouraged to have their children immunised with triple antigens at about four months and again at about six months; a third dose is given at about one year of age.

(d) Measles

Measles vaccine has continued to be made generally available during the year. This is given early in the second year. The figures below show a considerable increase over 1969 due to the fact that during that year supplies of vaccine became unobtainable following the withdrawal of one strain of vaccine. There was, therefore, a backlog of children waiting for vaccination when supplies resumed in March, 1970.

(e) Poliomyelitis

Oral vaccine is used, given in conjunction with triple vaccine usually. Booster doses are available before starting school or on going abroad.

The table on the next page gives the numbers of children who were protected against these diseases.

Year of Birth	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966- 1963	Others	Totals
Primary triple	17	297	136	6	11	2	469
Primary dip/tet	1	-	-	1	2	1	5
Primary diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Primary tetanus	-	1	-	-	1	20	22
Primary Polio	18	308	42	*	*	*	
Primary Measles	1	216	310	*	*	*	
Reinforcing triple	-	-	8	8	112	5	133
Reinforcing dip/tet	-	-	-	1	268	4	273
Reinforcing diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reinforcing tetanus	-	-	-	5	9	36	50
Reinforcing polio	-	1	8	*	*	*	

* No figures available

Most vaccinations are now done following appointments arranged by the County Health Authority's computer, whether or not the general practitioner or medical officer attending the child health clinic gives the vaccination.

(f) German Measles

Following a circular received from the Department of Health licensing vaccine for use against Rubella, an immediate programme of vaccination for 13 year old girls was carried out at the beginning of 1971.

(g) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination for children at the age of about 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with Tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis. 6.3% of children tested in 1970 were tuberculin positive. The comparable figure in 1960 was 10.5%.

Those children who react strongly to this test are referred to the County Chest Physician for further investigation, and usually a chest X-ray.

(h) Influenza Vaccine

As in previous years, routine vaccination against Influenza was offered to members of the Council's staff.

3. MOBILE CHEST X-RAY SERVICE

A letter from the Medical Director of the Mass Radiography Service of the Oxford Regional Board stated that as from 1st January, 1971 Chesham and Amersham would both be omitted from the itinerary of the mobile unit. This was in line with a recommendation of a specialist committee of the Department of Health. I wrote to the Medical Director protesting about the suspension of this service. However, the X-ray services at both Amersham and Chesham hospitals seem to be able to cope with the increased number of referrals. This arrangement appears to extinguish the general public's right to direct access to routine X-ray checks unless specially arranged.

SECTION V

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

1. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number and nature of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year is given below:

<u>Housing Acts</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Houses inspected under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied)	6
Houses revisited under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied)	10
Multi-occupied houses	11
Visits in connection with applications for Qualification Certificates ...	13
Visits under Rent Acts	4
Visits in connection with improvement grant applications	141
Compulsory improvement of houses ...	2
Visits to housing applicants	4
"Rapid Housing Survey"	1,717

Public Health Acts

Primary visits to houses re defects ...	17
Revisits to houses re defects	49
Nuisances from Animals and Refuse, etc.	52
Caravan Sites	1
Water Supplies	50
Swimming Pool and Paddling Pool... ..	16
Sewers, Drains and Cesspools	51
Drain Tests	8
Sanitary Accommodation	2

Factories

Power Factories	15
Non-Power Factories	-
Other Premises (e.g. Building Sites)... ..	3
Outworkers Premises	-

Food, and Food Premises

Butchers	28
Grocers	46
Fishmongers	12
Restaurants, Cafes and Hotels	22
Works and School Canteens	2

<u>Food, and Food Premises (continued)</u>	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Bakehouses and Confectioners	6
Icecream Premises... ..	5
Food Manufacturing Premises... ..	3
Licensed Premises... ..	10
Dairies... ..	8
Visits to inspect foodstuffs or take samples	45
Food Vehicles and stalls inspected ...	8
Poultry Processors	2

Offices. Shops and Railway Premises

General Inspections	29
Other Visits... ..	74
Investigation of Accidents	3

Rodent and Insect Pest Control

(Excludes visits by the Rodent Officer)

Rodent Control	36
Insect Pests	19
Disinfestation for Insect Pests	2

Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning

Infectious Disease enquiries	75
Disinfections carried out	2
Food Poisoning enquiries	4

Noise Abatement

Visits to premises	15
Observations only... ..	21

Clean Air

Visits to Plant or Premises	33
Observations only... ..	35

Miscellaneous

Pet Shops	1
Schools	1
Hairdressers	2
Interviews	544
Other miscellaneous visits	59
No access - no one at home	38

Complaints

Number of complaints made to the Public
Health Department (excluding complaints of
rats, mice and insects which are dealt with
elsewhere in the Report) 137
(143 in 1969)

2. INSECT PESTS

Members of the public have continued to seek the help of the Public Health Department in controlling insect pests. Appropriate advice is given on every occasion and where necessary treatments are carried out by staff of the Department.

The most urgent calls for assistance are received from occupiers of premises where wasp nests have been located. In 1970, 106 nests were destroyed by the Council's Rodent Officer who carries out this work in addition to his normal duties. This number compares with 71 in 1969 and 13 in 1968. A variety of other insect pests were treated at 17 premises.

3. STRAY CATS

The Council's Rodent Officer has on a number of occasions during the year carried out the trapping of stray cats where these animals were causing a nuisance to residents. 11 cats were trapped and destroyed humanely by a local veterinary surgeon.

4. FERAL PIGEONS

Although a servicing company had successfully trapped over 100 pigeons in the central area of the town during 1969, a build-up of pigeons was noticed in 1970 and it became obvious that further control measures would have to be taken to deal with the problem. No action was, however, commenced during the year under review.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

As a result of the investigation of complaints and during the course of routine work a wide variety of sanitary defects and nuisances are met and dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. In the majority of cases remedies are effected following written or verbal requests made by the Public Health Inspectors, without resort to statutory procedure.

During 1970, 11 written requests were made with respect to various defects. A table showing the type of matters dealt with follows.

DEFECT	NO. OF OCCURRENCES
Defective windows	9
Dampness in dwellings	4
Defective floorboards	5
Broken ceiling plaster	2
Defective water closets	2
Leaking roofs	2
Defective eaves gutters	2
Accumulation of rubbish	2
Defective drainage systems	4
Unsatisfactory refuse storage arrangements	3
TOTAL	35

6. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - STATUTORY NOTICES

If within a reasonable time the informal action described above fails to secure the remedy of sanitary defects or the abatement of nuisances, the matters concerned are reported to the Council's Health Committee, which authorises statutory notices to be served. The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year.

ACT & SECTION	DETAILS	NUMBER OF NOTICES			
		Out-standing on 1.1.70	Served	Complied with	Out-standing on 31.12.70
Public Health Act, 1936					
Section 39	Defective drainage system	1	2	3	-
Section 45	Defective water closets	1	-	1	-
Section 93	Dampness and other defects in dwelling	1	1	1	1
	TOTAL	3	3	5	1

Court proceedings were taken against the two landlords of the dwellings concerned for non-compliance with three of the notices included in the above table. One landlord was fined £10 with £10.50 costs, and the other case the Council were awarded £10.50 costs. All the work required had been completed by the dates of the court hearings.

Enforcement of the notice outstanding at the end of the year has been delayed due to a change of "ownership", the notice having to be re-served.

Work Carried Out by the Council

It was necessary to utilise the Council's powers on several occasions to clear stoppages in drainage systems common to groups of old houses. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, these systems are "public sewers" which the Council has a duty to "maintain, cleanse and empty", although the costs of any works of repair or renewal are recoverable. The work has been carried out by labour from the Surveyor's Department. The absence of proper inspection chambers to old drainage systems often makes the work of clearing stoppages a lengthy process.

7. NOISE ABATEMENT

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960, empowers local authorities to take action in respect of nuisances caused by noise and vibration.

Complaints of noise from six separate sources were received during the year. All were concerned with noise from commercial or industrial premises in close proximity to residential property.

The complaints were investigated by the Public Health Inspectors and were all considered to be justified. Informal action secured the abatement of the noise nuisances in four of the cases; in one case the offending company vacated the premises concerned; in the remaining instance, which concerned noise from woodworking machinery, the matter was referred to the planning authority for action on the grounds that the activities being carried out on the premises were not covered by a valid planning consent.

8. CLEAN AIR

The Clean Air Act, 1956 and 1968 make provision for abating the pollution of the air.

A total of 18 incidents involving smoke nuisances or emissions of dark smoke were investigated during the year. The commonest type of incident concerned dark smoke from the burning of waste material on industrial premises or building sites, and twelve informal notices drawing attention to the offences were sent to the persons responsible. The emission of dark smoke from factory chimneys was noticed on three occasions and appropriate warnings were issued. Miscellaneous smoke nuisances at three other premises were also the subject of informal action.

Section 3 of the 1956 Act requires new industrial furnaces to be as smokeless as practicable, and local authorities must be notified of new installations. Nine notifications of new furnaces were received during the year. In only one case was prior approval of the appliance sought and this was granted after due consideration.

The Acts give local authorities control over the height of furnace chimneys. During the year, approval to the proposed height of two chimneys was granted.

SECTION VI

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Water Supplies

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplies over 80% of the total dwellings within the District in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal Piped Supply	6,965	-	21,040
External Supply (Standpipes)	9	3	30

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

Fluoride Content of Water

The fluoride content of both water from the Chesham supply and that of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley, is .04 p.p.m. or less.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Seventy-five samples, sixty-three for bacteriological examination and twelve for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or the Public Analyst.

All samples were reported to be of high chemical and bacteriological purity suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Chemical Analysis

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from four different sources of mains water:

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Sample Collected From</u>	<u>Water Undertaking</u>
M195	Deansway Infants School	Chesham U.D.C.
M233	50 Little Hivings	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company (Amersham Main)
M137	308 Bois Moor Road	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company (Beaconsfield Main)
M151	4 Field Close	Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company (Berkhampstead Main)

	<u>Sample Ref. No.</u>	<u>M.195</u>	<u>M.233</u>	<u>M.137</u>	<u>M.151</u>
Appearance		all clear and colourless			
Reaction (pH)		7.3	7.0	7.0	7.1
		parts per million			
Free chlorine		nil	nil	nil	nil
Total solids		340	480	440	304
Loss on ignition		34	220	105	28
Chlorine in chlorides		13	13	35	30
Ammoniacal nitrogen		nil	0.004	nil	nil
Albuminoid nitrogen		0.05	0.004	nil	nil
Nitrate nitrogen		4.3	2.5	2.5	4.7
Nitrite nitrogen		nil	nil	nil	nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3hrs. at 98°F)		0.28	0.64	nil	0.02
Hardness, temporary		247	248	256	234
permanent		24	20	35	36
Total		271	268	291	270
Metals - lead, copper, zinc		n o t f o u n d			

(b) Private Well Supplies

Twenty-one dwellings and two business premises in the District are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and the water is normally of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1970, together with the results of examinations carried out:

	SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES			
	Number of Samples	Result of Examination		
		Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination	19	12	-	7
Chemical Analysis	3	3	-	-

The well supplies yielding the seven unsatisfactory samples were the subject of investigations and advisory action; subsequently sampling proved satisfactory but at one house the freedom from contamination was only temporary.

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's Open Air Swimming Bath on The Moor continued to operate during the summer months, the water heating installed in the previous year proving extremely popular.

Whilst the heating does not extend the season from the date point of view, it means that the Baths are more usable at the beginning and towards the end of the season.

The possibility of a cover is still being investigated.

The Bath is filled with water from a well on the site and the filtration and chlorination plant continues to ensure that the water is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. Three samples of water from the bath and two samples from the footbaths were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

The pool continues to be popular with small children and is filled with water from the Town's mains supply, and further chlorinated and renewed at frequent intervals. One sample of the water was examined bacteriologically and found to be unsatisfactory. Steps were immediately taken to check the cleansing and chlorination procedure.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the Town is on a separate system, foul sewers discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Works in Latimer Road.

The teething problems previously experienced with the re-constructed Sewage Works have now been overcome and effluent analysis shows a very high standard in the effluent being discharged to the River Chess.

Parts of the District not served by Public Sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in out-lying parts of the Town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least two months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham district consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council's machine emptied 435 cesspools during the year, 412 at premises within the District, the remainder in adjoining areas.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and certain Trade Refuse is collected within the Urban District and disposal of this is by incineration at the Council's refuse destructor in Latimer Road.

Storage of Household Refuse

The paper sack system of refuse storage was introduced at further new dwellings on Council estates during 1970.

5. SLUM CLEARANCE: THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Individual Unfit Houses

During the year Closing Orders were applied to three unfit dwellings within the District, two being houses in Townsend Road and one a basement flat in Lye Green Road.

Following the action started in 1969, Undertakings were accepted from the owner in respect of eight houses in King Street. When the tenants have been re-housed a complete renovation scheme will be carried out.

Urban Renewal

Demolition of thirteen houses in the area of Townsend Road which is scheduled for future redevelopment was completed during the year.

Negotiations for the purchase of twelve houses and "off-licence" premises in George Street were completed. This site is required during the year for redevelopment including the erection of a block of Council dwellings for elderly persons.

Compulsory Improvement of Houses

Powers for the compulsory improvement of dwellings within an improvement area which were given to Local Authorities under the Housing Act, 1964 have been repealed and replaced by new provisions in the Housing Act, 1969. Financial aid may now be given towards the improvement of the environment in general improvement areas but Local Authorities must rely on compulsory purchase powers where owners fail to improve property voluntarily in an improvement area.

The powers available to a Local Authority to compel a landlord to install standard amenities on the application of the tenant in the case of a single dwelling have been retained. Two representations were received from tenants in Chesham during 1970.

6. REVIEW OF HOUSING CONDITIONS

Under the Housing Act, 1969 Local Authorities are to cause an inspection of their districts to be made from time to time with a view to dealing with a wide range of unsatisfactory conditions in older houses in their areas. This general duty is central to the main purpose of the Act which is that more should be done year by year to improve and repair houses that can be improved and to get rid of unfit houses.

A selective survey of the houses in Chesham was completed in 1970. It took the form of what may be commonly described as a "rapid housing survey", the procedure for which had been established in a previous survey carried out in 1953/54. This form of survey entails house to house visiting for the collection of certain specified information and for the purpose of making a rapid assessment of their standard of fitness for human habitation. However, the minimum of time is required as detailed inspections of the interiors of the houses are not normally carried out.

The basic information collected related to the following matters:

Water supply; whether main or well supply. If main supply, with a pipe to within the dwelling or not.

Drainage; whether dwelling connected to the Council's sewer or to another form of drainage.

Sanitary accommodation; the type of closet provided and whether exclusive to the dwelling or not.

Bathroom; whether or not the dwelling was provided with a bathroom.

The houses are then placed in one of four categories according to their standard of fitness and amenity. The results of the earlier survey of 1953/54 were summarised as follows:

<u>Category I</u>	Houses of a high standard with modern amenities and in good state of repair. (1,099 dwellings)
<u>Category II</u>	Houses of sound construction and in good repair, but possessing poor amenities (1,001 dwellings)
<u>Category III</u>	Substandard houses worthy of adequate maintenance to prolong their useful life, but not suitable for large scale improvement. (607 dwellings)

Category IV Houses of the lowest standard which could not be rendered fit without drastic reconstruction and improvement.
(174 dwellings)

Caravans 33

The houses selected for the 1970 survey were all those which were classified in categories II, III and IV of the earlier survey. It will be seen that they numbered 1,815 private dwellings, including 33 caravans. All new dwellings in category I were omitted.

The results of the 1970 survey were as follows:

316 of these dwellings no longer existed. Whilst 204 (including 33 caravans) had been demolished or removed 112 premises were no longer used as dwellings. The remaining 1,499 dwellings were placed in the following categories:

<u>Category I</u>	Dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities	974 dwellings
<u>Category II</u>	Dwellings lacking standard amenities suitable for full improvement	352 dwellings
<u>Category III</u>	Dwellings in disrepair and considered suitable for short term improvement only	145 dwellings
<u>Category IV</u>	Dwellings unfit for human habitation requiring extensive works to render fit	28 dwellings

Water Supply and Sanitary Accommodation

The survey also revealed that 9 houses still had only an external supply of main water and that at 12 dwellings one external W.C. was shared between two.

Bathrooms

468 dwellings were found to be without bathrooms as compared with 1,344 in 1954.

A rapid survey does not permit a detailed inspection to be made of the properties and the decision to place a property into one category or another must be arbitrary and subject to the standards and conditions prevailing at the time. Seventeen years have elapsed since the first survey, during which standards

of maintenance have fallen whilst the much higher grants and easier conditions now available make it worthwhile to retain almost any building, regardless of condition. In fact, for most practical purposes, one could divide the properties into those with amenities and those without.

It has not yet been possible to fully assess the results of the survey, but it is hoped to do this in the near future and to formulate a policy of action to deal with the sub-standard houses.

7. GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The Council has continued to make Discretionary and Standard Grants for the improvement of old houses and the Public Health Department is responsible for the considerable amount of administrative work attached to the operation of these schemes. The Public Health Inspector made 141 visits during the year to advise applicants on proposals or to inspect works in progress.

New Legislation

A thorough and self-contained code for grant-aided improvement and conversion of houses came into operation on the 25th August, 1969 under the Housing Act, 1969. The new code provides flexibility to deal with a wide range of house conditions, and a minimum of statutory requirements: as much as possible is left to the local authority's judgment. The upper limit for Discretionary Improvement Grants has been increased to £1,000 (£1,200 for conversions) and to £200 for Standard Grants (£450 in the case of higher limit Standard Grants). A new type of grant has been introduced to enable grant-aid to be made towards the provision of amenities in houses in multi-occupation. Improvement grant is now available to cover repairs and replacements needed for the purpose of making fully effective other improvements carried out at the same time.

The new provisions have stimulated enquiries from house owners, and as will be seen below the number of applications in 1970 was nearly double that in 1969.

Grant-aided Improvements in 1970

In the year under review, a total of 42 applications for both types of grant were received as against 22 in the previous year. Details are given in the tables following:

STANDARD GRANTS

	Owner/Occupier		Tenanted		All Appli- cations Total
	Standard		Standard		
	5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point	
Applications Received	9	-	6	-	15
Applications Approved	7	-	6	-	13
Applications Refused	-	-	-	-	-
Applications Withdrawn	2	-	-	-	2
Dwellings Improved	7	-	2	-	9

Amount paid in grants £1,806.83

Average grant per house £200.76

Number of amenities provided -

fixed bath or shower	7
wash-hand basin	8
hot water supply	
@ 3 points	8
@ 2 points	-
inside water closet	6

In the years 1959 to 1970 inclusive, a total of 125 applications for Standard Grants have been received, of which 113 have been approved. 101 of the schemes have been completed.

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	Owner/Occupiers	Tenanted	Total
Applications Received	17	10	27
Applications Approved	15	10	25
Applications Refused	2	-	-
Applications Withdrawn	-	-	-
Dwellings Improved	11	7	18

Amount paid in grants £6,836.00

Average grant per house £379.77

Since 1954, 270 applications for Discretionary improvement grants have been received and of these 257 have been approved. 216 of the schemes have been completed.

8. IMPROVEMENT OF PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

In addition to making grants to the owners of private dwellings, the Council are also proceeding with schemes of improvement and modernisation of their own property. As far back as 1958, they approved schemes for 471 dwellings out of 529 properties built before 1946. The work is made more difficult due to the wide variety of house types; 46 different layouts for pre-war properties alone.

The proposed schemes of improvement provide all the houses with amenities of a standard equivalent to that of post-war properties. Hot water supply is provided by means of a back boiler, independent boiler or immersion heater, according to type, whilst in certain instances, additional improvement is effected by the re-arrangement of sculleries, larders and coal stores.

In several of the older types, a considerably improved layout is obtained by demolishing the ground floor bathrooms and W.C. and constructing a new bathroom and W.C. on the first floor by partitioning off a section of a large bedroom. A modern electrical installation, incorporating ring mains with adequate socket outlets, is also provided.

The Housing Act, 1969, has extended the definition of "improvement" to include "alteration and enlargement and such other repairs and replacements as are either incidental to some other improvement or needed for the purpose of making the other improvement fully effective". This broader definition has enabled the Council to obtain financial assistance on a number of items not previously eligible.

At the present time, there are fourteen basic schemes of improvement, which vary according to the layout and facilities of the original dwellings. With the more liberal provisions of the Housing Act, 1969 some of these schemes could be modified to include partial or full central heating, as already introduced in Bois Moor Road and a prototype scheme in Brockhurst Road. These modifications are in course of preparation and will be submitted to the Council in due course. Several house types lend themselves to improvement by means of schemes incorporating modern gas-fired appliances, details of which will be shown to the Housing Committee as they are prepared.

There has been some delay in obtaining approval of the full scheme of modernisation of the 22 elderly persons' flats at Townfield, but this project should be completed towards the end of 1971 or early in 1972. In the interim, however, the provision of a warden's flat and a community room is making good progress.

Of the 529 pre-war properties owned by the Council, 225 have not yet been completed. During 1970, only 31 dwellings were modernised. Of these, 28 properties were dealt with by contract, the remainder by direct labour.

These low figures reflect the great difficulty in recruiting suitable maintenance staff and the ever-increasing demands of normal housing maintenance on the Council's growing stock of properties, together with the marked reluctance of suitable contractors to undertake this type of work. The wide variety of house types and the fact that the dwellings are occupied are two features which tend to deter private builders from submitting tenders.

9. HOUSING REPAIRS

The Housing Act, 1969 as well as encouraging the repair of houses by making grant-aid available for certain works carried out with improvements has introduced a new power to require the repair of houses which are not yet unfit. Up to now the powers in the Housing Act, 1957 have dealt with only the works required to make unfit houses fit for human habitation. The new power may be used where substantial repairs are needed to bring the house up to a reasonable standard having regard to its age, character and locality.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year. Where action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was taken to secure repairs, it was in most cases the result of complaints made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned. The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action was 6. Statutory action secured the repair of 4 other houses.

No application for certificates of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1968 were received during the year.

Rent of Dwellings in good repair and provided with standard amenities

Part 3 of the Housing Act, 1969 introduced a new system governing the rents of privately rented dwellings which have been brought up to a satisfactory standard. Controlled tenancies will be converted to regulated tenancies where the qualifying standard is attained. The qualifying conditions are that the dwelling has all the standard amenities for the exclusive use of the occupants, that it is in good repair having regard to its age, character and locality and disregarding internal decorative repair, and that it is otherwise fit for human habitation. The standard amenities are:

- (a) A fixed bath or shower which must be in a bathroom unless this is not reasonably practicable.
- (b) A wash-hand basin.
- (c) A sink.
- (d) A water closet which must be in, and accessible from within, the dwelling unless this is not reasonably practicable.
- (e) A hot and cold water supply at the fixed bath or shower, at the wash-hand basin and at the sink.

The chief responsibility of local authorities in relation to these new rent provisions is to deal with applications for certificates relating to the state of the dwelling when it is let on a controlled tenancy. There are two types of case: the first is where the dwelling is to be provided with some or all of the standard amenities; the second is where the dwelling already had all the standard amenities at the commencement of the Act. A booklet explaining the new provisions is available in the Department and has been distributed to local estate agents and solicitors.

During 1970 ten applications for qualification certificates were received in respect of houses where the standard amenities had already been provided.

The administration of this part of the Act is carried out by the Council's Public Health Inspectors and involves considerable work, including negotiations with landlords and tenants, the inspection of properties and liaison with the Rent Officer.

10. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964, strengthened by new provisions in the Housing Act, 1969, have given local authorities extensive powers to control houses which are in multiple-occupation. Suitable and sufficient services and amenities may be required together with provision for means of escape in case of fire. The number of occupants may be limited according to the accommodation or facilities available. Where management standards are bad a code of management may be applied and in extreme cases local authorities may take over the property under control orders.

The Housing Act, 1969 applies a new definition of a house in multi-occupations: it is now framed in the terms "a house which is occupied by persons who do not form a single household". Unfortunately the term "household" is not defined and there are some doubts whether the new definition will, in fact, simplify procedure.

Action in 1970

Court proceedings were taken against the landlord of one multi-occupied dwelling for failure to comply with notices under Sections 15 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1961 requiring him to provide improved facilities and proper means of escape in case of fire. The court finding the charges proved imposed a fine of £50 and awarded the Council £10.50 in costs.

Once again it is regrettable that due to shortage of staff and pressure of other duties only a small number of visits were made to multi-occupied houses during 1970, and little was achieved in the way of enforcing the accepted standards.

11. COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1970 the Council rehoused 120 families including 43 exchanges. Since 1946 Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 2,949 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

Year	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O.A.P. Bungalows & Flats	Council Totals	Houses Erected By	
						Private Enterprise	Housing Associations
1946/1950	35	186	36	-	257	85	-
1951/1955	-	233	86	40	359	229	10
1956/1960	-	126	129	-	255	1,109	22
1961/1965	-	82	32	37	151	842	-
1966/1969	-	111	59	-	170	383	-
1970	-	48	-	-	48	30	-
Totals	35	786	342	77	1,240	2,678	32

At the close of the year there were no dwellings under construction by the Council but arrangements were well advanced for the commencement early in 1971 of Stage III of the Trapps Lane housing development scheme. Dwellings under private construction at the end of the year numbered 32.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the town, numbered 429 in December, 1970. This number compares with 409 in the previous year. The 1970 figure includes 88 applications from elderly persons or couples.

12. CARAVAN SITES

Only one licence under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, was in operation during the year. This site was occupied by a single caravan only and the Licence conditions, although based on the model standards, were suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the site.

13. RODENT CONTROL Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Under this Act it is the duty of the local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice.

The Council's duties are carried out by one full-time Rodent Officer working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. His time is divided between surveys and treatments of all types of premises, including farms. Surveys are carried out as a result of notification by occupiers or in the course of the general inspection of the District. The table following shows that 150 premises were inspected as a result of notifications, and that 1,475 properties were inspected in the course of routine surveys.

The majority of infestations discovered are treated by the Rodent Officer, only a few occupiers preferring to carry out their own treatments. A charge is made for treatments at business premises.

One informal notice requiring the owner of a property to deal with the conditions causing infestation was served during the year.

A summary of action taken during the year is given belows

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	NON-	AGRICULTURAL AGRICULTURAL
Number of properties in district (1.4.70)	8,116	37
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	148	2
Number infested by		
(i) Rats	45	-
(ii) Mice	6	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1,450	25
Number infested by		
(i) Rats	8	2
(ii) Mice	1	-
Total number of properties where treatment for rats and/or mice has been completed	69	-

14. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1961

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that rag flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of furniture, bedding, soft toys, etc., are of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Where such articles are manufactured, the Act provides for registration of the premises. The premises of one upholsterer in Chesham are registered under the Act.

15. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 25 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

Two visits were made by the Council's Health Inspectors to registered premises.

16. WELFARE OF ANIMALS

In recent years three Acts of Parliament have given local authorities duties in relation to the health and welfare of animals. These Acts are the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Act, 1964. The two former are administered by the District Council and the latter by the Bucks. County Council.

Since March, 1966, Mr. David D. Unwin, B.Vet.Med., M.R.C.V.S., has carried out the inspection of premises and animals under the Acts enforced by the Council. Administrative provisions are dealt with by the Public Health Department.

(a) Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are sold and empowers a Local Authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

There are two licenced pet shops and one wholesaler of goldfish and tortoises in the town. The conditions attached to the licences have been complied with.

(b) Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on.

One licence has been in operation during the year in respect of premises accommodating 40 dogs and 30 cats. Satisfactory conditions have been maintained.

17. THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to health, and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

Plans of new factories are examined in the Public Health Department and appropriate comments are passed to the architects concerned with a view to ensuring that sanitary conveniences and other provisions as to health meet with the statutory requirements.

The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list following:

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Descaling fluid	1
Car accessories	1

Factories (With Power)

Light engineering	23
Woodware, joinery and sawmills	15
Motor vehicle repairs	16
Printers	11
Brushware	5
Food manufacture and packing	3
Aircraft seats	5
Foundries	2
Injection moulding	3
Boot manufacturers	2
Instrument manufacturers	5
Shoe repairs	1
Tubular furniture	4
Scrap sorting and packing	1
Radio and T.V. repairs	3
Gas and electricity suppliers	2
Tailors	1
Jewellers	1
Other industries	26
	<hr/>
	131

Outworkers

Under Section 133 of the Factories Act, 1961, the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

18. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act, which came into force during 1964, makes provision for securing the safety, health and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and certain railway premises. The Council are responsible for enforcing the general provisions of the Act in most of the office and shop premises in the Chesham Urban District. H.M. Inspectors of Factories enforce the general provisions of the Act in railway premises, in fuel storage depots on railway land and in factory offices. In addition, they are responsible for premises owned or occupied by the Crown and those occupied by local authorities. The fire provisions of the Act are, at most premises in the District, enforced by the Buckinghamshire County Council.

Registration of Premises

Section 49 of the Act requires occupiers of premises within scope to register them with the appropriate authority. Fifteen premises were newly registered with the Council during the year. Inspection of registered premises revealed a number that were no longer within the scope of the Act and others that had closed down. After removal of these premises the total number on the register at the end of the year was 210, an increase of 2 on the corresponding figure for 1969.

Immediately it is known that new premises are occupied or that there has been a change of occupier at existing premises, a visit is made to ascertain if the Act will apply to the premises. The occupiers whose premises should be registered are informed of their statutory obligations under the Act and registration forms are sent to them. Whilst the responsibility for registration rests on the employer, few new employers would register unless this procedure was adopted.

Inspection of Premises

(a) Inspection Arrangements

The system of inspection of premises in Chesham was described in some detail in the report for 1969. These arrangements continued without alteration in 1970, but since October the shortage of a Public Health Inspector has inevitably interrupted the normal programme of visiting and inspecting premises under the Act.

(b) Inspections during 1970

During 1970, 23 premises received a general inspection and the total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises (including general inspections) was 106.

Operation and General Provisions of the Act

During 1970 a total of 29 written notices notifying 95 contraventions were sent out to the persons responsible. The most frequently occurring defects related to the provision and maintenance of washing facilities, the lighting of premises and the provision of first-aid materials. The requirement to supply employees with information about the Act was also commonly infringed.

An analysis of the total contraventions recorded during the year is given below:

<u>Section of Act</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Number of Contraventions found and notified to owners or occupiers</u>
4	Cleanliness of rooms and furnishings	8
6	Temperature of workrooms	6
8	Lighting of premises	11
9	Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences	8
10	Provision and maintenance of washing facilities	18
16	Safety of floors, passages and stairs	7
24	First Aid Materials	18
50	Information for Employees	13
	Other Matters	6
	Total	<hr/> 95 <hr/>

Since 1964 when the Act came into operation 267 informal notices have been served. At the end of 1970 24 notices had not been complied with, but most of these were of recent service.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists and Lifts) Regulations, 1968

These Regulations came into force on the 28th May, 1969. Briefly, they impose requirements as to the construction, maintenance and examination of lifts in offices, shops and railway premises, and exempt particular classes of lift or lift-way from certain requirements of the Regulations subject to specified conditions and limitations.

The Regulations require that every lift shall be thoroughly examined periodically by a competent person, and where the examination shows that the lift cannot be continued to be used with safety a copy of his report must be sent to the enforcing authority.

Only a few registered premises in Chesham have lifts subject to the Regulations. The Council's officers were involved in negotiations to secure the compliance of a lift being installed at premises in the High Street as part of accommodation works in connection with a new service road, but otherwise no particular problems have been encountered with the operation of the Regulations.

New Offices and Shops

As previously reported, a Public Health Inspector examines plans submitted to the Council under Building Regulations and showing premises likely to be within the scope of the Act. Obvious contraventions of the Act are pointed out to the applicants and wherever possible the opportunity is taken to give additional advice on compliance with the general requirements of the Act.

Accidents

Section 48 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 requires occupiers of premises which are subject to the Act to report any accident which causes the death of an employee, or disables an employee from doing his normal work for more than three days. Reports of accidents must be submitted to the authority on the prescribed form OSR2.

There were four accidents notified during the period covered by this report.

It is thought that not all employers are fully aware of their responsibilities in reporting accidents and it is hoped to send a circular letter on the subject to all registered premises at a convenient time in the future.

Details of the accidents reported in 1970 are summarised below.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Cause of accident</u>	<u>Injury received</u>
21	M	Unloading goods	Bruising and swelling of left fore-arm
44	M	Handling goods	Hurt back
21	M	Slipped on stairs	Bruised hip and sprained ankle
56	M	Struck on head by parcel	Cut head requiring stitches

Accident to Warehouseman

Investigations were made into the accident in which a young man suffered injury resulting in 8 days' absence from work following a fall down stairs in a warehouse. It was discovered that the accident was caused by a clear contravention of a requirement of the Act. The injured person was carrying goods down a straight flight of stairs of open construction. Goods were stacked under the stairs and on this occasion a broom handle projected through a gap between the treads. The employee's view was obscured by the goods he was carrying down the stairs and he fell as a result of treading on the projecting broom handle.

The Act requires that all stairs shall so far as practicable be kept free from obstruction, and a warning letter was sent to the employers who promised action to prevent a recurrence.

The stairs involved in the incident and three other similar flights in the warehouse were both steep and narrow, and whilst reasonably satisfactory for normal purposes, they were considered most unsuitable for use by persons having to carry bulky goods regularly up and down them. Unfortunately the Act makes no requirements as to the suitability of staircases. It was, however pointed out to the occupiers of the warehouse that any persons using the stairs to carry goods were being exposed to serious risk of injury and they were recommended to take action to eliminate the use of the stairs for carrying goods, or alternatively, to provide stairs of more suitable design.

It is to be hoped that when future legislation is being considered, some thought will be given to specifying minimum standards for the dimensions, design and form of construction of stairs and steps, such standards having due regard to the purpose for which they are used.

Prosecutions

No legal proceedings for offences under the Act were instituted by the Council during the year.

Prescribed Particulars

The appendix to the report contains the following tables, giving the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act.

TABLE A - Registrations and General Inspections

TABLE B - Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to registered premises.

TABLE C - Analysis of persons employed in registered premises by workplace.

TABLE D - Exemptions

TABLE E - Prosecutions

TABLE F - Staff

SECTION VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

The Milk and Dairies Regulations

Since 1949, the duties of local authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of local authorities.

Three shopkeepers, intending to sell either 'pasteurised' or 'ultra-heat treated' milk in bottles or cartons, were newly registered as milk distributors during the year. A total of 13 milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. One producer/retailer operates from premises in the District.

Milk supplies are sampled regularly by Offices of the Bucks. County Council and tested for both compositional and bacteriological quality.

Tests to check the cleansing of milk bottles at the local dairy are arranged regularly by the Public Health Inspectors.

During the year 12 washed milk bottles in 2 batches were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All results were satisfactory.

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the year.

2. ICE-CREAM

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the ice-cream sold from the shops is of the pre-packed variety supplied by large firms distributing on a national scale. The vehicles from which ice-cream is sold are also operated by firms whose premises are situated outside the district.

No samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1970.

3. LIQUID EGG

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

These Regulations which came into operation on the 1st January, 1964, require the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken out on the food manufacturer's premises and used within 24 hours. The Regulations prescribe the method of pasteurisation and the test to be satisfied. Enforcement is the responsibility of local authorities. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

4. FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(a) Food Businesses

The table following shows the categories of trade carried on in the food premises in the district subject to these Regulations.

Principal Business	No.	Fitted to comply with Reg. 16 +	Reg. 19 * applicable	Fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Grocery	36	36	36	36
Greengrocery	9	9	9	6
Butcher	14	14	14	14
Wet Fish	2	2	2	2
Fish Frying	4	4	4	4
Bakers	4	4	4	4
Sweet Shops	16	16	16	10
Catering	5	5	5	5
Canteens	11	11	11	11
School Meals	10	10	10	10
Manufacturing	1	1	1	1
Licensed Premises	25	25	25	25
Clubs, Halls	11	11	11	11
Warehouses	3	3	-	-
	151	151	148	139

NOTE + Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins supplied with hot and cold or warm water.

* Regulation 19 requires in all food premises in which open food is handled the provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment. The occupiers of the 9 premises not fitted to comply with Regulation 19 have been granted

Certificates of Exemption by the Council and in granting these exemptions the Council had regard to the nature of the food handled, mainly fruit, vegetables and confectionery, and the limited equipment used upon the premises.

(b) Inspection of Food Premises

The inspection of premises where food is stored, manufactured or sold continues to be an important duty of the Public Health Inspectors. Visits are made to all such premises and those with a record of poor hygiene are given frequent inspections.

During the year the Inspectors made 189 visits to premises subject to the Regulations. On 9 occasions written notices detailing infringements found were sent to the persons responsible. The matters concerned are summarised below.

Regulation	Item	No. of Cases
14	Sanitary conveniences not kept in clean state	1
16	Absence of 'wash hands' notice	2
16	Absence of wash-hand basin with hot and cold water	2
16	Absence of nailbrushes	1
16	Absence of clean supply of towels	1
17	Absence of first-aid materials	1
23	Walls, floors and ceilings not kept clean	5
23	Floor not maintained in good order	1
5	Yards not kept in a clean state	2
9	Smoking by food handler	1
23	Premises open to risk of infestation by rats	1
Total		18

(c) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations had, by the end of the year, been in operation for four years, yet many persons operating stalls and vehicles are totally ignorant of their existence.

A useful explanatory booklet on the Regulations, published by the Health Education Council Limited, is distributed to local food businesses carrying on a delivery service. In an accompanying letter the opportunity is taken to point

out to traders that unless covered by certain defined exemptions, they have a choice of either wrapping or otherwise protecting the food carried, or of providing water supply, washing facilities and first aid equipment on the delivery vehicles. The point does not yet appear to be fully understood or accepted by some retailers.

8 inspections were made of stalls, mobile shops and delivery vehicles. A large number of retailers operate over a wide area and, when unsatisfactory conditions are found in these cases, it is usual to notify the Public Health Inspector of the authority from which they operate. On 5 occasions written notices detailing infringements found were sent to the persons responsible. The matters are summarised as follows.

Regulation	Item	No. of Cases
5	Land on which stall sited not kept clean	1
9	Failure to wear clean over-clothing	1
13	Absence of name and address	1
16(1)	Absence of wash-hand basin with hot water, soap & towels	2
16(2)	Hot water insufficient temperature	2
16(3)	Absence of nailbrush	1
16(3)	Absence of soap, towels & nailbrush	2
17	Absence of first aid materials	3
18	Absence of suitable sink with hot water	2
	Total	15

(d) Poultry Inspection

The provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, apply to premises at which poultry are processed for sale and local authorities are responsible for seeing that the Act and Regulations are complied with. There are no large poultry processing premises within the district, but processing on a small scale is carried on at a few premises.

No inspection of poultry at the premises has been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

5. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Purpose for which Registered	Premises on Register 1969	Added to Register 1970	Removed from Register 1970	Total on Register 31.12.70
Sale and storage of ice-cream	62	4	1	65
Manufacture of ice-cream	* 2	-	-	2 *
Manufacture of preserved food	20	3	1	22
Fish Frying	4	-	-	4
Totals	88	7	2	93

* No ice-cream was manufactured at these premises in 1970.

6. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since September, 1959 no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham. The few local butchers wishing to buy meat "on the hoof" now make use of the slaughtering facilities available in adjoining districts.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1969	- 2
Applications for Licences considered during 1970	- 0
Applications for Renewals considered during 1970	- 2
Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1970	- 2

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, gives local authorities wide powers to deal with offences in relation to the sale of food. Section 2 of the Act deals with food not of the nature, or substance, or quality demanded. Where there is a danger to health, or where it appears that the offence is local in character, e.g. the sale of mouldy food by a shopkeeper, as the result of poor stock control, the matter is dealt with by this Authority. In certain instances complaints falling under this Section are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council which is the Food and Drugs Authority for this district. The sale or exposure for sale of food unfit for human consumption is covered by Section 8 of the Act, and all cases are handled by this Council's Public Health Inspectors.

40 complaints relating to food were received during the year. 6 of these were passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council. The remaining 34 cases were investigated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors. The Council instituted legal proceedings in 7 of the cases; all offences were proved and fines totalling £325 and costs of £79 were imposed by the Courts.

The cases in which legal proceedings were taken involved 3 cases of mouldy sausages, a mouldy pork pie, mouldy bread, unfit coleslaw salad, and a mouldy steak and kidney pie. Poor stock rotation and inadequate attention to the proper 'shelf-life' of the products by retailers was largely to blame for the offences.

The practice of sale or return, whereby stale food is collected by driver/salesman from one shop and subsequently delivered to another, is undoubtedly one of the causes of stale and "time expired" food being exposed for sale. The practice would soon cease if retailers gave greater attention to the freshness of food at the time of delivery to their premises. A retailer's only defence should stale food be sold from his shop is to be able to demonstrate conclusively by means of a satisfactory coding system that the particular article must have been out of condition at the time of delivery.

Unsound Food Condemned

A considerable amount of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year, details of which are set out below.

	tons	<u>Weight</u>	
		cwt.	lbs.
Meat at retail shops	—	1	102
Cooked meat and products	—	—	—
Canned Meat	—	—	108
Fish	—	4	47
Other foods	1	9	—
Total	1	15	33

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are normally destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

B.H. BURNE
Medical Officer of Health

L.D. SATURLEY
Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1970
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	2	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	131	15	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites)	3	3	1	-
TOTAL	136	18	3	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector		By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133		Section 134			
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing) Making Apparel) etc. Cleaning and Washing	15	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	18	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	—	—	—	—	—

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report to the Department of Employment and Productivity by local authorities and the Greater London Council under Section 60

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	6	73	7
Retail shops	9	124	15
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	3	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	10	-
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	15	210	23

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

106

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	611
Retail shops	726
Wholesale departments, warehouses	100
Catering establishments open to the public	35
Canteens	2
Fuel storage depots	-
TOTAL	1,474
TOTAL MALES	613
TOTAL FEMALES	861

TABLE D - EXEMPTIONS

Part I - Space (Section 5 (2))
 Part II - Temperature (Section 6)
 Part III - Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)
 Part IV - Washing Facilities (Section 10)

Class of Premises	No. of exemptions current at end of year	During the year					Appeals to Courts against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption	
		No. of exemptions		No. of applications				
		newly granted	extended	expired or withdrawn	refused	opposed by employees	No. made (8)	No. allowed (9)
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Offices Retail Shops Wholesale shops, warehouses Catering establish ments open to public, canteens Fuel storage depots)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in 1970 - NIL

Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22 = NIL

Number of interim orders granted = NIL

TABLE F - STAFF

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act = 3

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act = NIL

